

## House Resolution 810

By: Representative Morris of the 155<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. William Donovan Warthen; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia celebrates the life of one of its most distinguished citizens,  
3 Mr. William Donovan Warthen; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Warthen was born on January 27, 1924, in Vidalia, Georgia, and he  
5 remained in Vidalia his entire life; and
- 6 WHEREAS, in 1944, while attending the Citadel, Mr. Warthen volunteered for the United  
7 States Army Infantry, 84th Division; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Mr. Warthen was awarded a Purple Heart for his courage as a POW after being  
9 captured in November of 1944, at one point being forced to walk over 325 miles from one  
10 camp to another before his liberation in May of 1945; and
- 11 WHEREAS, upon his return home from his military service, Mr. Warthen was united in love  
12 and marriage to Dorothy Lewis, and the two shared 63 wonderful years together, welcoming  
13 three children, Katherine, John, and Ellen; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Mr. Warthen worked on his family farm for 50 years raising cattle and growing  
15 soybeans, peanuts, tobacco, oats, cotton, and onions; and
- 16 WHEREAS, he sold irrigation systems and owned a cotton gin in 1953, before becoming  
17 affectionately known as the "Pecan Man" through his operation of the Georgia Pecan  
18 Auction; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Mr. Warthen earned numerous awards and distinctions throughout the years,  
20 including being named the Vidalia Citizen of the Year in 1974, and a George Hixon Fellow

21 from the Kiwanis Club, an organization to which he devoted 40 years and for which he  
22 served as president and key sponsor; and

23 WHEREAS, a man devoted to the Democratic Party, Mr. Warthen served as president of the  
24 Vidalia Chamber of Commerce, secretary and treasurer of the Vidalia School Board, and  
25 served on the boards of the Library, Meadows Memorial Hospital, AgFirst, and the Boys &  
26 Girls Club; and

27 WHEREAS, a great source of pride and joy for Mr. Warthen were his children, two  
28 grandsons, Boyce and William, and his two great-grandchildren, Owen and Georgia; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Warthen was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable  
30 reputation for integrity, intelligence, and fairness, and his faith and kindness continue to  
31 serve as an inspiration to others; and

32 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, the passing of Mr. Warthen affected the  
33 lives of many; he will long be remembered for his love of God, country, family, history, and  
34 politics; and this loyal husband, father, neighbor, and friend will be missed by all who had  
35 the great fortune of knowing him.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
37 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. William Donovan  
38 Warthen and commending his accomplishments and contributions to the State of Georgia.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
40 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. William  
41 Donovan Warthen.